THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) The present policy does not permit Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retial trade except Single Brand retial where FDI up to 51%, with prior Government approval is allowed. The policy on FDI is reviewed on a continuing basis through an inter-ministerial consultation process and wider discussions. keeping in view the interests of all stakeholders.

Scrapping of SEZs in Goa

887. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Goa has recommended the scrapping of some Special Economic Zones;

(b) details of the request of Government of Goa in this regard;

(c) what were the reasons advanced by Government of Goa to scrap or withdraw SEZ status to some areas;

(d) whether it is also a fact that request have come from different places to derecognize SEZs; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the utility of all SEZs sanctioned in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A communication has been received from the Government of Goa withdrawing the recommendations granted by them for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Goa, including the three notified SEZs.

(c) The reasons mentioned by Government of Goa are that SEZs would put undue strain on the resources of State without commensurate benefits and will also lead to large scale migration of people.

(d) Only one request has come for de-notification of SEZ.

(e) As the newly established SEZs are just getting established/operational, it is too early to make any assessment on their viability which is constantly being evaluated by the Developer of SEZs and entrepreneurs in the manufacturing/service units who are investing their money.

Production of organic tea

888. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken new project to produce organic tea in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of tea gardens included of Assam under this project; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the same among the small tea growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A pilot project has been initiated to evolve a standard package of practices backed by the Research Institutes. This project aims at understanding the market potential for organic tea and hormonise the certification mechanism. The project is being implemented with financial support from the Common Fund for Commodities and the Government of India through the ongoing development schemes of Tea Board. The project duration is three years and total outlay of the project is 4 million USD of which 1.6 million USD will be provided by CFC partly as a loan — 0.965 Million USD and partly as grant — 0.644 million USD. Under the project three model farms of 100 hectare each in three different geographic locations have been demarcated, one each in Assam, West Bengal and South India for developing the technology, skills and systems of organic tea production. The project also provides for including small tea growers in each region. Accordingly out of 100 ha of the model farm, 10 ha of small holdings in Assam and West Bengal and 20 ha in South India have also been included.

Job losses due to slump in US and European market

889. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of job losses in 283 export-oriented units in the last five months period is estimated at 95866 as survey conducted by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT);

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that these job losses are due to significant slump in the US and Europe markets;

(c) if so, the actions taken by Government to tackle the problem such innumerous job loss situation now and in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Global Financial Crisis and economic slowdown in developed economies, which are our major export destinations, have squeezed the international demand. This impact of economic slowdown is visible in the export sector since October, 2008 both in terms of cancellation/reduced export orders and loss of employment. A sample survey conducted earlier for the period August to December, 08 by the Department of Commerce for 283 exporting units spread over 17 different export sectors, primarily employment oriented, revealed job loss (both direct and indirect) to the tune of 95,866 persons. Sectors which have been affected are Gems and Jewellery, Leather and Leather products, Marine, Textile, Handloom, Carpets, Handicrafts, Automobile, SMEs, Plastics and